

# Catholic Theatre Conference

## PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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### BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

#### A SUCCESS!

The Central Region's benefit performance of "All Gaul is Divided", held November 11 at the Civic Theatre in Chicago, netted \$762.60 for the Conference treasury! All those who gave their time and directed their efforts toward the success of this venture deserves the wholehearted gratitude of the Conference. This substantial return will aid greatly in sustaining the Conference and making possible greater service to the members.

Although a big thank you is extended to everyone who worked on the benefit a special expression of appreciation is due Miss Therese Cuny and her family; Mr. David Itkin of De Paul University; Sister Thomas More, St. Clara Academy; Sister M. Honora, St. Catherine's High School; Loras and Clarke Colleges; Father Karl Schroeder; St. Scholastica Academy; Rosary and Mundelein Colleges.

More undertakings of this nature in supporting Catholic Theatre will insure the future of the Service Bureau and help to make possible many plans for its advancement.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL MEET

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Executive Board together with the Regional Chairmen will be held Saturday, December 27 in New York City. Mrs. Christopher Wyatt has graciously offered her home for the meeting. Rev. Karl Schroeder, President, will preside.

If you have a plan, problem or idea to submit for Board consideration please refer it to the Executive Secretary immediately for inclusion on the agenda.

### WE ARE LATE, BECAUSE.....

This month we did not go to press on the 26th as usual but held publication until December 4 in order to receive reports on the three Conference activities held Thanksgiving weekend. We bring you accounts of the Chicago and Milwaukee Play Festivals and the East Central Regional meeting in addition to the Davenport Drama Clinic and the benefit performance of "All Gaul is Divided" held earlier in November.

### THE BULLETIN

All copies of the Bulletin have been mailed. Those groups who placed orders received shipment directly from Dubuque along with the extra complimentary copy to which membership in the Conference entitles them. The other members received their copy from the Service Bureau. If yours has not reached you please contact the national office.

Additional copies are on sale priced at fifty cents per copy. Perhaps your students and members would like to have their own individual copy.

The finished product was well worth waiting for. Father Schroeder deserves our sincere compliments for his painstaking efforts as editor. This year's issue is bigger and better than ever.

**DAVENPORT DRAMA CLINIC  
DRAWS 260!**

Sister Mary Angelita, B.V.M., of Immaculate Conception Academy, Davenport, and chairman of the Central Region, reported enthusiastically on the Results of the one day Drama Clinic held at the Academy and St. Ambrose College on November 15.

Forty of the 260 in attendance were directors and faculty members. Clinton, Iowa had 100% attendance while Oelwein sent delegates who had to travel 400 miles!

Father Schroeder spoke briefly on the aims of the Conference; Sister M. Leola of Clarke College gave a persuasive talk on Penthouse Theatre, particularly recommending it to high school groups.

Dr. Miller of Marquette University spoke on the standards for judging a play, how to approach a part and gave a makeup demonstration.

"A Bell for Adano", directed by Charles Costello, was presented in the afternoon by the St. Ambrose Players, followed by a meeting of directors and a dance for the students. Marycrest and St. Ambrose students served as hosts and hostesses.

Definite steps were taken for future activity with Sister Margaret Mary of Aquinas High School sponsoring a Play Festival in La Crosse for the nearby schools. Sister Thomas More is planning a Festival for her area in and around Sinsinawa, including some of the Iowa and Illinois schools. Sister Charitas of Minneapolis was appointed chairman to plan a Festival for the Twin City area. Sister M. Michael, Our Lady's Academy, Carroll, Iowa is going to sponsor one in the spring for the western portion of the state aided by Sister Emily of St. Joseph's, Des Moines. It is planned to bring together the best of all these plays for a performance.

In addition to Sister Angelita's enthusiastic report glowing accounts were also received from Sister Thomas More and Father Schroeder adding emphasis to the above report on a most successful day in promoting Catholic Theatre and the Conference.

**OVER 250 ATTEND  
MILWAUKEE PLAY FESTIVAL**

Thanksgiving weekend was a busy one in Conference activity with Play Festivals in Milwaukee and Chicago and an East-Central organizational meeting in Cincinnati.

Sister Mary Honora, O.P., St. Catherine's High School, Racine planned the Milwaukee Festival held November 28, 29 and 30 at Marquette High School.

The program opened Friday afternoon with a welcome extended by Rev. W. R. Luebke, S.J. and the opening address by Rev. Edmund J. Goebel, Ph.D., Supt. of Schools in the Milwaukee Archdiocese. Sister Honora spoke on the purpose of the Festival with Sister Mary Angelita speaking in her capacity as Central Regional chairman.

Eight one-act plays were presented throughout Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and afternoon with Mr. Ronald Mitchell, director of the Wisconsin University Theatre as Critic Judge.

A dance Saturday evening lent a festive touch. Sunday morning Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Roman R. Atkielski, Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee Archdiocese followed by Benediction. Bishop Atkielski was the principal speaker at the Communion Breakfast at which time announcement of the award winners was made. The St. Genesius medals will be given to George Halaska of Marquette High for the best male role; Patricia Fabry of Holy Angels Academy for the best female role and to Mr. Leon J. Schlenk of Marquette Prep Players for the best directed and produced play, "The Rising of the Moon" by Lady Gregory.

The directors present selected an all star cast from the plays presented. These twelve students received silver pins. Those groups present, with the exception of the directors, elected two of its members to form a committee to select their all star cast, too. No awards beyond recognition were made but tentative plans suggest a bronze pin for next year.

Holy Angels Academy, Milwaukee, has offered to serve as host for next year's Festival. The next directors' meeting is set for the third Saturday in January.

Highlights of Sister Honora's report were her comments on the wonderful  
(cont'd. on page 6)



### THE GENTLEMAN FROM ATHENS

Emmet Lavery's new play, "The Gentleman from Athens", will open on Broadway at the Mansfield Theatre on December 9. The Conference extends its best wishes for even greater success than "The Magnificent Yankee" attained.

We are happy to count this successful Catholic playwright as one of our most energetic workers. His devotion to promoting Catholic Theatre and the work of the Conference has been zealous and longstanding. His outspoken replies to the questions of the House Un-American Activities Committee earned their respect when he stated that he is a Catholic and "am not a Communist. I. never have been and don't intend to be."

### ENCLOSURES

This month's Calendar brings you two enclosures. May we direct your close attention to both of them for they can be of valuable aid to you.

(1) Information regarding the new Radio Script Service inaugurated by the St. Genesius Players Guild of Montreal. Extra copies were generously supplied by the Guild.

(2) Announcement of the initial Christopher Drama Awards offering \$10,000 in prizes to stimulate the writing of plays that will be "good theatre, entertaining and based on Christian values".

### NEWS BITS

An unusual adjunct to the Davenport Drama Clinic was the large shield used on the stage. It was a replica of the design used on the Communion Breakfast place cards at the national convention in Washington last June.

St. Genesius was much in evidence as the Conference patron saint on the programs of all the regional activities.

Father Jas. Donohue, former President of the Conference, is home from the hospital - is resting in the Loras College infirmary until he resumes teaching.

### NEWS BITS (cont'd.)

Loras College's recent production of Macbeth, directed by Father Schroeder, received high praise from one of Dubuque's drama critics, who gives few bouquets. He especially commented on the weird and realistic effect created in the witches' scenes with "the strange dances and contortions and muttered wicked incantations". The director informed us that their movements were created by studying the actual sinuous movements of the real snakes which were used in the scenes, twined around the cauldron!

One of the pleasant and enjoyable visits made during the East-Central Regional meeting were the few hours spent with Sister Ellen, our former Miss Helen Purcell. She is very happy in her new life and as enthusiastic as ever regarding the work of the Conference.

Another pleasant trip was that made across the river from Cincinnati to Covington, Kentucky to see the Catholic Theatre Guild of Northern Kentucky present "Kamiano"; to make the acquaintance and accept the southern hospitality of Stanley Grady, Joseph and Bernard Brungs, John Cambron and other Catholic Theatre energetic workers there.

Sister Ancilla, Executive Board Member from St. Joseph College, West Hartford, Conn., came down to New York the day before Thanksgiving with a companion sister and fifteen students to attend the matinee performance of "Medea".

Catholic Theatre of Detroit members make the Service Bureau a stopping off point on their business and vacation trips to New York. Most recent were Kay Flood, William Finn and Edw. Spinrad. Incidentally, there are now eighteen former Detroit members now in New York.

Your Executive Secretary wishes on behalf of the Executive Board and herself to wish every member a Blessed, Happy and Merry Christmas.

Boston College - Dec. 17-18 GOLDEN BOY.  
Cambridge, Mass. - Matignon High - THE  
FOURTH SHEPHERD - Dec. 22

Chicago - Immaculata High - THE HAPPY  
PRINCE - Dec. 14.

Cincinnati - Mother of Mercy High - THE  
ALIEN STAR - Dec. 22.

Our Lady of Cincinnati College - Edge-  
cliff Players present a pageant with  
verse choir - OUR LADY OF FATIMA, Dec. 8.  
Davenport - Immaculate Conception Acad-  
emy - 3 one-acts: THE GROOM'S BOUQUET,  
WORLD WITHOUT MEN and SUMMONS OF SARIEL,  
Dec. 13 and 14.

Dayton Blackfriars - THE GREAT BIG DOOR-  
STEP.

Detroit - Children's Stage - Dec. 19-20,  
THE BIRDS' CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Dubuque - Clarke College - THE GROOM'S  
BOUQUET and OVERTONES presented in  
arena style, Dec. 10 and 11. Rev. Karl  
Schroeder will be guest speaker.

Loras College - TEN LITTLE INDIANS,  
Dec. 7 and 8.

Duluth - College of St. Scholastica -  
an operetta, CHONITA, Dec. 8.

Frontenac, Minn. - Villa Maria Academy,  
THE CORNHUSK DOLL, THE KING'S JONGLEUR  
and BORN IN BETHLEHEM, a Nativity se-  
quence from SHINING IN DARKNESS.

Grand Rapids, Mich. - St. Joseph Semi-  
nary - BROTHER PETROC'S RETURN.

Mount Mercy Academy, Dec. 12 - radio  
program for Sodality breakfast. Founda-  
tion Day Program honoring Mother Mary  
Catherine McAuley. Junior group pre-  
sents THE SHEPHERD WHO STAYED BEHIND,  
CHRISTMAS REVOLT and TWINKLE, TWINKLE  
CHRISTMAS STAR. Dec. 17 - Senior  
Mercians in THE SHEPHERDS' STAR.

Green Bay, Wisc. - Central Catholic  
High - GREEN GROW THE LILACS, Dec. 6 & 7.

Hartford, Conn. - Queene's Company of  
St. Joseph College - Dec. 18 - tradi-  
tional play for the season of Christ's  
Nativity.

Kansas City, Mo. - Lillis High School,  
ONE WHO CALLED and COME, LET US ADORE  
HIM.

Louisville, Ky. - Nazareth College  
Roswitha Players - TRUE VOICES, (Life  
of Jeanne d'Arc), Dec. 10 and 11.

New Rochelle College - THE TEMPEST  
presented by the Seniors, Dec. 5.

New York City - Carroll Club - HOLY  
NIGHT, Dec. 16 & 17 - directed by  
Edgar Kloten of Fordham University  
Theatre Division. Variety programs  
over Fordham station WFUU, Dec. 14 & 27.

New York City - Fordham - RAMBLINGS OF  
1947, directed by Edgar Kloten, Dec. 2  
through 14 in Penthouse Theatre.

Omaha, Neb. - College of St. Mary -  
Dec. 11 - MURDER IN A NUNNERY.

Philadelphia - Annex of Little Flower  
High - THE SILVER STAR OF CHRISTMAS.

Philopatrian Guild - THE JOYOUS  
SEASON, Dec. 11, 12 and 13.

St. Joseph College - Cap and Bells  
Dramatic Society - FATHER MALACHY'S  
MIRACLE - Dec. 5 and 6.

San Francisco - Catholic Theatre Guild,  
Workshop program on alternate Tuesdays  
and Wednesdays.

Saint Joseph, Minn. - College of St.  
Benedict - original Christmas play  
GOD LOVES HUMANITY told through dance,  
pantomime and chorus.

Saint Mary of the Woods College -  
Gheon's CHRISTMAS ON THE VILLAGE SQUARE.

South Bend, Ind. - Catholic Theatre of  
St. Joseph Valley - THE JOYOUS SEASON,  
Dec. 8-11, directed by Mrs. Isabelle  
Doyle. Semi-monthly workshop informal  
plays or talks on theatre by profes-  
sionals.

Tarrytown, N.Y. - Marymount College -  
Dec. 3 and 4, RESPECTFULLY YOURS.

Dec. 12 and 14 BASTIEN and BASTIENNE.

Wichita, Kansas - Sacred Heart Academy,  
THE TOYMAKER'S DOLL, THE CHRISTMAS PIE  
and TWINKLE, TWINKLE CHRISTMAS STAR.

Woburn, Mass. - Passion Player's Guild,  
Dec. 5 - SONG OF BERNADETTE in Cambridge.

Dec. 12 - THE FIRST LEGION in Woburn.

Winona, Minn. - THE BARTERED BRIDE,  
Dec. 13 and 14 - College of St. Teresa.

Yankton, S. Dakota - Mount Marty Jr.  
College - IN QUEST OF THE STAR using  
1st to 4th grade model school children.

#### TRIAL BY FIRE

The Blackfriars' Guild of New York  
recently opened their production of  
TRIAL BY FIRE to run Dec. 2 through 21.  
This is a documentary play based on  
the infamous Short Case, which tells  
of the murder of a Negro family be-  
cause they built a house in a section  
where they were not wanted. The case  
was dramatized by Rev. Geo. H. Dunne, S.J.  
from the coroner's inquest records.  
Father Dunne came to New York from  
Santa Cruz, Calif. for rehearsals and  
opening of his play. It was directed  
by Albert McCleery of Fordham Univer-  
sity Theatre with settings by Wm. Riva,  
Fordham stage designer.



**CHICAGO PLAY FESTIVAL  
ATTRACTS 1,500!**

The third annual Play Festival for Catholic High Schools was held at Loyola Community Theatre on November 28, 29 and 30. It was produced by Loyola Academy and sponsored by the Conference. Approximately 700 were in constant attendance throughout the three days and about 1,500 attended different sessions of the Festival. The arrangements were under the supervision of Miss Therese Cuny, former Central Regional Chairman.

With few exceptions the audiences were composed of the high school students of Chicago. Twenty-two Chicago high schools participated, each one producing a thirty minute play. Rev. Gilbert Hartke, O.P., Head of Dept. of Speech and Drama, Catholic University, acted as Critic-Judge and following each session (morning and afternoon) gave comments and criticisms of the productions.

On Saturday evening a dance was held for all those who attended. The Festival closed with a banquet on Sunday evening at which individual awards were made for outstanding work in drama. Eleven scholarships were awarded to those who merited the rating "First Honors", including Mary L. Mugan, Academy of Our Lady; Nancy Aiston, Marywood; Rosemary Rapp, Providence High School; Nancy Ahlforth, Academy of Our Lady; Richard Williams, St. Ignatius High; Joan Budill, Loretto Academy; Cornelius Reardon, St. Ignatius; Leota Gruninger, Alvernia High; Felicia Cimitelle of Providence; James McLaughlin, St. Ignatius and Myles Lynch, Fenwick High. Eleven other participants were given "Second Honors".

Scholarships were granted by Catholic University; De Paul, John Carroll, Loyola and Fordham Universities; Mundelein, Nazareth (Ky.), St. Francis Xavier Siena Heights and St. Francis Colleges.

Thirteen of the twenty-two participating schools are members of the Conference with the remaining nine evidencing keen interest. The Festival program devoted considerable space to acquainting everyone with the work of the Conference in promoting Catholic Action through Catholic Drama.

**EAST-CENTRAL REGION  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

The organizational meeting of the East-Central Region was held at Our Lady of Cincinnati College on Saturday, November 29 under the chairmanship of Miss Sally Moormann. The primary purpose of the gathering was to bring together directors and other interested leaders from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky to activate and organize the area as a regional unit. One hundred and fifty were in attendance with Our Lady of Cincinnati College, Xavier University and Mount St. Joseph College as hosts.

The morning was devoted to the business session presided over by Miss Moormann. The welcoming address was given by Rev. Alfred G. Stritch of Our Lady of Cincinnati College. The principal speaker was Executive Secretary, Margaret Passmore, explaining the function of the Service Bureau and suggesting various regional activities. Discussion led to the region being sub-divided into eight units composed of adjacent cities. These units met separately later in the day to pool ideas and begin preliminary plans for clinics or festivals.

The morning session was concluded with the election of regional officers. Miss Moormann's previous appointment by the Executive Board was extended by her unanimous election as Regional Chairman. Miss Harriet Enneking of St. Mary's College, Indiana was elected secretary with Sister Margaret Mary, I.H.M., St. Mary's Academy, Monroe, Michigan as treasurer.

Father Schroeder was the Luncheon Speaker setting forth the aims of the Conference and explaining the place Catholic Theatre can and should hold.

The afternoon began with a Play Clinic offering "The Wonder Hat" as a laboratory production by girls from Ursuline Academy directed by Mrs. Linna Townsley Smith. Father Schroeder served as Critic-Judge.

The assembly divided into the following groups for sectional meetings: College and University with Rev. Jos. Cousins, College of St. Charles Borromeo, Columbus, Ohio as discussion leader; High School and Children's Theatre with Sister Miriam, School of Brown County Ursulines. This group

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## MILWAUKEE PLAY FESTIVAL (cont'd.)

esprit de corps and splendid spirit of comradeship. Although most of the participating groups were not members of the Conference Sister remarked upon their interest and is predicting they soon will be! They were so interested they regretted missing the Chicago Festival held the same week-end and want to stagger the dates next year so they may attend.

Sister Honora had sent for one hundred copies of the Bulletin to be on sale throughout the Festival. Most of them were sold but plans have been made to dispose of the remainder. Since the event ended with money in the treasury the directors plan to buy the remaining Bulletins at their January meeting and disperse them among the schools for publicity. Some directors intend to give them as awards to their students.

Sister Thomas More, Executive Board member, attended the Festival.

### BROADWAY COMMENTS

by Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

(Two plays, The Druid Circle and An Inspector Calls, were reviewed last month from reports by an agent. Mrs. Wyatt apologizes and disagrees and herewith sets forth her own comments.) The Druid Circle - technically adroit with an admirable cast headed by Leo G. Carroll but the theme is developed with much unnecessary sex and typical Van Druten unmoral conclusion.

An Inspector Calls - a modern morality play on our responsibility one to another; tensely dramatic with a most unusual climax.

Antony and Cleopatra - superb and intelligent production strictly following the text with Cleopatra dignified by Katharine Cornell, Godfrey Tearle a warmhearted Antony and an outstanding characterization by Kent Smith of Enobarbus.

For Love or Money - an unpleasant play with many unnecessary vulgarities brightened by the personality of June Lockhart with her fresh and delightful comedy.

The First Mrs. Fraser - a pleasant revival of Sir John Ervine's polite

## EAST-CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING (cont'd.)

witnessed students from Brown County in verse choir work as displayed in "A Woman Wrapped in Silence". Among the speakers were Miss Mary Layne and Mrs. Viola Black. The latter spoke on the value of children's theater as evidenced by the work of the Detroit Children's Stage.

Stanley Grady of the Catholic Theatre Guild of Northern Kentucky led the Community Theatre discussion. An informal question and answer session was held with contributions regarding their groups' experiences given by Jerry Tierney, President of Catholic Theatre Guild of Louisville; William Cornell, Board member of The Catholic Theatre of Detroit; John Weaver of Dayton Blackfriars and other representatives from Covington and Louisville, Kentucky; Fremont and Dayton, Ohio; Detroit and Wayne, Michigan.

Miss Passmore, drawing upon previous experience with the Catholic Theatre of Detroit, recommended community theatres establishing adjunct children theatres to aid in balancing the budget and creating a reservoir from which to draw talent for future adult productions.

Benediction followed in the college chapel after which a buffet supper was served in the college dining room. A great deal of credit for the smooth functioning of the setup at the college goes to Sister Virginia, Dean and to Sister Hildegard for their gracious hospitality.

The day closed with the production of "Angel Street" by the Edgecliff Players of Our Lady of Cincinnati College, directed by Father Stritch.

Interest and enthusiasm which mounted throughout the day predict an energetic future for this new region.

### BROADWAY COMMENTS (cont'd.)

comedy with Jane Cowl and Henry Daniell. The Winslow Boy - Terence Rattigan has achieved maturity in this interesting dramatization of a real episode important in emphasizing the individual's right against the state.



